



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

Nashrat Al-Sabah



February 28, 2007

World Court and Darfur atrocities

- The International Criminal Court (ICC)'s chief prosecutor, Luis-Moreno Ocampo, named yesterday the first two suspects accused of committing atrocities in Darfur. Ocampo asked pre-trial judges to issue summons for Ahmed Haroun, former State Minister of Interior and the current Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs, and militia commander Ali Mohamed Ali Abdelrahman, also known as Ali Kushayb. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

- Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ali Karti revealed in a statement to Al-Jazeera TV that the Government of Sudan has received an offer from the U.S. to halt the ICC proceedings in return for the government's consent to deploy UN troops to Darfur. Karti said, "This shows that this court has been formed for political purposes and not to serve justice." (*Al-Wihda*)

- Minister of Justice Ali Al-Mardi stated that the ICC had no jurisdiction over suspects for alleged crimes of Darfur: "We are not concerned with, nor do we accept, what the ICC prosecutor has opted for." Al-Mardi announced that Ali Kushayb, the second suspect, has been in detention since November. The Justice Minister further stated that the evidence which the ICC prosecutor referred to is "lies given to him by people who bear arms against the state, bear arms against citizens, and kill innocent citizens in Darfur." (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Ayaam, et al*)

- State Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroon yesterday proclaimed his innocence, stating that he will continue in his post as usual as he awaits the government's decision in this regard. Haroon further accused the international community

of trying to undermine efforts that aim to reach a peace settlement in Darfur. (*Akhir Lahza*)

- Spokesman for the Sudan Liberation Movement Al-Tayyib Khamis described the ICC move as "historic" for Darfur. "Bringing to justice the people who perpetrated crimes in Darfur ... is a historic moment for us and for our families in Darfur," he added. (*Al-Ayaam*)

U.S. - Sudan Relations

- The U.S. Charge d'Affaires to Khartoum Cameron Hume acknowledged yesterday the stability of the security situation in North Darfur. Hume further noted that during his three-day visit to the state of North Darfur, the humanitarian and security situation there had improved. The U.S. Charge congratulated the Wali (governor) of North Darfur on his appointment as a governor for a second term. The Wali of North Darfur, Yousif Kibir, commended USAID efforts to relieve those affected by the conflict. Kibir called on the U.S. to exert more pressure on opponents to Darfur Peace Agreement in order to reach a settlement (*Al-Hayat*)

Quote of the Day:

"What I have done in Darfur was prompted by my sense of duty and is in line with the Sudanese law." Ahmed Haroon, State Minister at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, a war crimes suspect named by the ICC.

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. Material reported here does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.